In the Claims

1. (Previously Amended) An arrangement for connecting a node in a distributed system containing fail-uncontrolled nodes, the arrangement comprising:

a receiver for receiving signals from another node of the system, and

a node guardian coupled to the receiver to control selectively reception according to a predetermined TDMA schedule of a message thereat so as to reduce reception of uncontrolled transmission from another node of the system.

2. (Previously Amended) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein the node guardian comprises:

a switch for receiving a plurality of input signals,

logic coupled to the switch for combining the plurality of received signals according to a predetermined logic function, and

a controller coupled to the switch for controlling application of the plurality of received signals to the logic.

3. (Original)   The arrangement of claim 2 wherein the predetermined logic function comprises an OR logic function.

4. (Previously Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein the controller is arranged to control the switch according to the predetermined TDMA schedule.

5. (Previously Amended) A distributed system comprising the arrangement according to claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, further comprising at least one node having a bus guardian.

7. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 6 wherein the system is one of A-B:

A   a TTP/C system,

B   a FlexRay™ system.

11. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a node in a fail-uncontrolled distributed system, the method comprising:

    providing a receiver receiving signals from another node of the system, and

    providing a node guardian coupled to the receiver and controlling selectively according to a predetermined TDMA schedule reception of a message threat so as to reduce reception of uncontrolled transmission from another node of the system.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the node guardian comprises:

    a switch receiving a plurality of input signals,

    logic coupled to the switch and combining the plurality of received signals according to a predetermined logic function, and

    a controller coupled to the switch and controlling application of the plurality of received signals to the logic.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the predetermined logic function comprises an OR logic function.

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the controller controls the switch according to the predetermined TDMA schedule.

15. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a distributed system comprising the method of operating a node according to claim 11.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing at least one node having the a bus guardian.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, comprising:

    operating a first node according to claim 11,

    operating a second node according to claim 11,

providing a first group of nodes having respective bus guardians, and

providing a second group of nodes having respective bus guardians,

wherein the first group is coupled to the first and second nodes via a first common channel, and

the second group is coupled to the first and second nodes via a second common channel,

the first group and the first node forming a first error containment region, and the second group

and the second node forming a second error containment region.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, the first group further being coupled to the first and

second nodes via a third common channel, and the second group further being coupled to the

first and second nodes via a fourth common channel.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

operating a third node according to claim 11, and

operating a fourth node according to claim 11,

wherein the third node is coupled to the first common channel, the fourth node is coupled to the

second common channel, and the first, second, third and fourth nodes are cross-coupled,

the third node being in the first error containment region, and the fourth node being in the second

error containment region.

20. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the system is one of A-B:

A   a TTP system,

B   a FlexRay™ system.

21. – 24. (Canceled)